

Acquisition Reform Success Story



Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JOINT STARS)

Program Manager (PM): Col Robert W. Chedister
Program Executive Officer: Brig Gen Berwyn Reiter
Contractor: Northrop Grumman
Contractor PM: Mr. Craig Schaum

Program Description

Joint STARS is a multi-service, multi-mode radar system which provides the tactical commander with a battle management and targeting system capable of detecting, locating, and tracking vehicles beyond ground line of sight, during the day and night, under most weather conditions.

How Streamlining Made a Difference

The Joint STARS Defense Acquisition Board (DAB) Integrated Process Team (IPT) championed an extremely successful MS III Full Rate Production decision. The JSTARS DAB IPT, consisting of members from the Joint Program Office (JPO), SAF/AQ, PEO, and OSD, challenged the DAB process, cutting the number of required documents from 48 to only 9 (over an 80% reduction). The JPO also reduced the projected manpower required to prepare for the DAB (based on estimates from the previous Joint STARS DAB in FY93) by 43%. A comparison of actual vs. projected manpower estimate resulted in a cost avoidance of approximately \$1.4M. The culmination of these streamlining initiatives resulted in a "Paper DAB" on 17 Sep 96 with release of the Acquisition Decision Memorandum authorizing Full Rate Production on 26 Sep 96.

The TADIL-J IPT has been consistently implementing acquisition reform initiatives. The Radar Management Upgrade/JTIDS Interface Upgrade (RMU/JIU) modification was the first successful Joint STARS One-Pass proposal process. Working as a joint team, the government and contractor were able to focus their efforts with the following highlights:

- 118 days from Advance Change Study Notice (ACSN) release to contract award
- One pass proposal completed in 22 days
- Developed earned value metrics as effective tool to determine efficiency of work performed versus planned work
 - Identifies potential over and under-manning situations permitting workload to be reallocated quickly minimizing program costs

Measure	Savings/Reduction
Contract Deliverables	40%
Labor Credits	\$600,000

Bottom Line: The TADIL-J team aggressively implemented acquisition reform to meet or exceed all customer requirements (doing it **better**), reduced the acquisition time (doing it **faster**), and saved \$600,000 (doing it **cheaper**).

